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Joy Clifton to H A Hall, 15 December 1931

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Dated only as December 15; year fixed from the reference to the death of F W Teesdale

Cover: "H Aubrey Hall Esq / Box 18 / Carnarvon"

Postmark: Pinjarra, date illegible

December 15th

Dear One

It is so long since I started this letter, will add another. I sent a wee parcel for Margaret to distribute at Xmas.

The heat has been very fierce, as you well know, people down with Flu & old people died many of them during the heat wave, 29 funerals last Monday week.

I rose with the magpies & kookaburras almost, to try & get ahead of my letters for Xmas. Since starting this the paper has come very late & I was saddened to see our good old Friend Mr Teesdale had passed away yesterday (14th). A previous notice stated he was very seriously ill at his home, 3 Tareena St Hollywood Nedlands. I fear the heat hurried his end. I did not wire you, as I thought you would probably know before I did. This phone here only opened ½ an hour before his funeral today at 4 o'clock. His photo & an outline & very kindly expressions of his career are in today's paper, which I will cut out. His sister seems to have stayed with him right through. Our family has lost a trusty friend & Roebourne will not be likely to replace him.

I had a long letter from Georgie, she said they were feeling a little less despairing & were all going to have a holiday, taking a house at Middleton Beach (Albany) near Aunt Anne Mitchell. Winifred is housekeeping for the Edward Warburtons at Mt Barker, her Father's youngest brother, I think, & he married Fanny Dempster so expect it, will have a free hand. Aunt Fanny very much an invalid & the only daughter (child) eccentric & quite a literary soul & doesn't bother about domesticity. Jack Hall can't marry yet, as his firm (Marshalls) are retrenching so many of the staff he thinks they will close down altogether & he will be looking for another job.

Frank Clifton (Worsley) & Norman Ferguson came down in Frank's Baby Austin, just to see about selling his block, which he is extremely sick off!! They had morning tea & off again. That evening (Saturday) Sam Gillam turned up, with a young Victorian from Gabyon, it was over the wool strike, they had 1100 volunteers from the Murchison & Gascoyne that were coming to handle the wool. Many of the train of cars turned back when they heard the strike was over for the time. A H G is afraid if the Judge give an award against the strikers, they will come out again, or, if they win then the lumpers will want an increase. They spent most of Sunday with us, we went for a sail & prawning in the evening.

About the Diaries I wrote & told Ernest I'm trying to make another copy, but do get so much broken time (which may seem strange). There does not seem any hope of getting my copy from the H Society. I shall have to risk it through the post again, it was lost last time & turned up in the Fremantle P O. Ernest said I gave him the wrong address, don't know how it happened.

Poor old Dr Kelsall is sick again. I know, because Peggy wanted Loulou for a week & booked her ages ago & has had to cancel 2 days.

Rupert Farmer, Dot's elder son, is at the Rollands at present, he can't get on with Buzz, they tried living together when Rupert returned from England, I think Rupert is much the better character, he used to write under the name of Frank Rhodes in the *W A* has gone in for journalism.

Loulou has promised to give herself a little holiday & rest at Xmas & Alex Darker & her fiancé are to come on Xmas afternoon, her mother wants her for dinner, as she says it will be the last before Alex's wedding & then they leave for England for 2 years. Alex has wealthy relations there & Paul Hasluck, though the family are Jews originally now Christian were big financiers in London & carried the P & O Coy for a time, we shall all miss the little girl & she is all her mother has. She is giving up a good position at St Hilda's school.

Mr Gillam said Montie Rolland & George Kelsall are both so thin, he thought they had better break off the engagement! I think they will be

married early next year. Also Ger Pearse in February. Victor was to get the engineering job for this Collie Irrigation Scheme, which the Government seem determined to carry out.

Someone has just sent us a ham from Boan's don't know who, probably Mr Raikes, he has left his nice new boat with us & we shall have plenty of boat room if people come to stay.

I forgot to say Mr Arthur Gillam is very low, can't write & doesn't come to see any one, Mrs Gillam's niece takes care of him. Henry Gillam is much better & is working a part of his vineyard & let only a portion now. Sam G said there were spies out watching the squatters & their men, all the way down from the Murchison.

I did not know until I saw the birth of the baby that Paul Lethbridge 2nd son (quite normal) had married Gerald Hester's only girl Mabel, Paul's mother's 1st cousin

The 2nd Mrs Edney Hassell (who was a Miss Mayhew) has Flora Mayhew nee Inglis working for her. I remember Jessica bombarding poor cousin Rose & Cecil one afternoon, absolutely forced herself in & told her all the scandal, which we knew *nothing* of, how a surveyor named Mayhew had run off with Flora & she Jessica rushed into Bunbury to Bishop Wilson & said "*Bishop*" I want my daughter married & it was done, now she has to fend for herself, Mayhew out of work. Lu Gillam & family won't be down until after Xmas or 5th of Jan.

I want to suggest to you to consider seriously the Roebourne vacant seat. I do not think Mr Teesdale would have liked any one better than you to carry on his work. It would be a pity to let some Labour man get in or even a man who was ignorant of the interests of the District. You know all the requirement & have the love of the North West & would not be afraid to speak up when required.

Financially you would be better off, could keep more in touch with Ernest & could attend to the finalising of the memorial. Think it all over. We want more good wholesome living men & clear thinkers.

Time I stopped & you will be weary of this epistle & any way the postage must be double now.

Good luck & much love dear one from your loving sister

Joy M Clifton

Ben Clifton has been removed to Kalgoorlie Benjamina still has the Flat I wonder what Ben will do without his Christian Science Church, it has made sad splits in that family they do seem *extremists*.

Mr Raikes remarked next time he came he would bring no fishing rods but a library.